



Message to Duncaster Residents and Families

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President and CEO

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In my communications over the past eight weeks I have discussed the constantly changing restrictive measures we have had to implement to keep everyone safe. While we have taken every precaution and followed every recommendation, sadly, and with a heavy heart, I want to inform you that three residents passed away this week from COVID-19 complications. Two lived in our assisted living community and one lived at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center. In addition, a beloved member of our Independent Living community passed away unrelated to COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends.

Since early March a total of twenty seven Duncaster residents and twelve employees have been tested.

- **Assisted Living (Thistle Way/Talcott Notch)**-three residents tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. One was hospitalized and unfortunately has passed away. One remains in a private room at the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center in our dedicated isolation neighborhood. And our resident who subsequently tested negative has unfortunately passed away.
- **Assisted Living (Dogwood)**-two residents tested negative and a third resident was recently tested and the result is pending.
- **Caleb Hitchcock Health Center**-seventeen residents have been tested: thirteen tested negative and four tested positive. Of those four residents who tested positive; one has now tested negative and was transferred back to their original room, two have passed; one remains in our dedicated isolation neighborhood.
- **Independent Living**-four residents tested negative.
- **Employees**- a total of twelve employees have been tested: four employees tested negative and eight tested positive. Several who tested positive have returned to work and the others are doing well.
- **Pending**-There is one pending test on campus.

May is the time of year we recognize our nurses and our mothers. May 6<sup>th</sup> was Nurses' Day and the beginning of National Nurses' Week. Always a special time each year to recognize and celebrate our nurses, it feels more important than ever to thank and honor those who are working tirelessly to care for our residents and who have dedicated their careers and lives selflessly caring for others. The unprecedented pandemic has certainly cast Nurses Week in a different light, and I can't think of another time in our lives when we want to pause and say thank you to Duncaster's remarkable nursing team. Duncaster has a long standing tradition in late May of recognizing our registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and our certified nursing assistants. We look forward to celebrating these wonderful caregivers in typical Duncaster style.

With Mother's Day this Sunday I would like to wish all of the mothers in the Duncaster community a Happy Mother's Day. As a 19<sup>th</sup> century Swiss Cardinal said: "A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take." I wish that we could celebrate the day as we usually do, with families visiting and a special brunch in the dining

room. Instead, our Dining Team has put together a special treat for all our residents which I hope is enjoyed. Also I do ask that everyone continue to practice social distancing and that family members not visit. We recommend a phone call or virtual visit with your loved ones. We have worked so hard to contain the spread of this deadly virus and as tempting as it is, this is not the time to let our guard down, even for one day. I look forward to the time when we can again welcome visitors and celebrate holidays and events together. Let's hope that if we work together, that day will come soon.

Be safe, be well and be strong.